

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06221 060721Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /073 W

-----110166 060725Z /14

R 060515Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, ID, AS

SUBJECT: TIMOR: WHITLAM MISQUOTED IN "THE AUSTRALIAN"; REPORT
THAT AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT WILL BE REASSIGNED TO CANBERRA

REF: CANBERRA 6150

1. THE MURDOCK NEWSPAPER "THE AUSTRALIAN" HAS PUBLICLY
APOLOGIZED TO OPPOSITION LEADER GOUGH WHITLAM FOR MIS-
QUOTING HIM ON TIMOR IN ITS SEPTEMBER 1 EDITION (REFTEL).
WHITLAM INFORMED "THE AUSTRALIAN" THAT: "THE QUEENSLAND
EDITION OF 'THE AUSTRALIAN' NEWSPAPER OF 1 SEPT. IN
FIRST COLUMN OF FIRST PAGE ATTRIBUTES TO ME WORDS WHICH
I NEVER UTTERED ABOUT INDONESIAN ACTION IN TIMOR. I AM
QUOTED AS REFERRING TO A CORRUPT CLIQUE OF JAKARTA
GENERALS AND ADVOCATING FIRM ACTION AGAINST THEM BY THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. I SEEK EARLY AMENDS FOR THIS
IRRESPONSIBLE FABRICATION OF REFLECTIONS ON NEIGHBOR AND
INCITEMENT TO WAR." IN ITS APOLOGY, "THE AUSTRALIAN"
NOTED THAT THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO WHITLAM WERE ACTUALLY
MADE BY TOM UREN, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

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WM AN ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER 6 EDITION OF "THE
AUSTRALIAN," QUOTING DFA SOURCES, CLAIMS THAT AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA R.A. WOOLCOTT HAS REFUSED AN
ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES, PREFERRING
TO RETURN TO CANBERRA. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT THE GOA
IS "ANGRY" OVER WOOLCOTT'S ALLEGED PRO-INDONESIAN STAND

OVER THE MILITARY TAKEOVER OF E. TIMOR. THE ARTICLE
CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR WOOLCOTT
PUBLICLY DENIED HE WAS TAKING A STAND ON THE GOI'S TIMOR
PROBLEM, POINTING OUT THAT AS AMBASSADOR HE WAS NOT
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GOA'S POLICIES. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PERSONNEL CONDUCT, THE PRESS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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